

AMERICAN PENNY MAGAZINE,

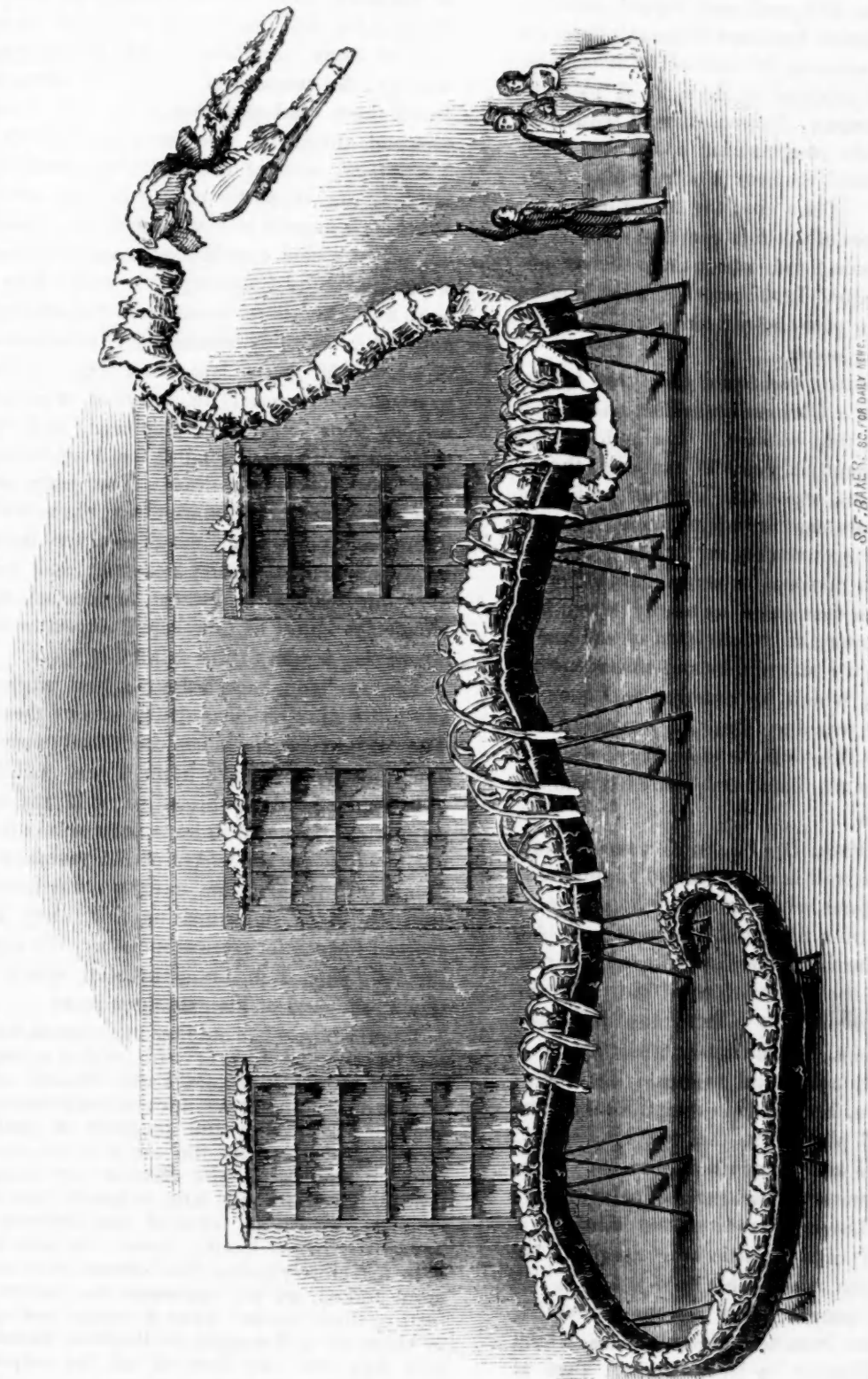
AN

FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

VOL. I.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1845.

No. 33.



S.F. BAKER, SCULPTOR.

THE SKELETON OF THE GREAT SEA-SERPENT;

Or, *Hydrargos Siliimanii*.

Discovered in Alabama in January, 1845, by the German Naturalist, Dr. Albert Koch, and now exhibited in New York.

THE GREAT FOSSIL SEA-SERPENT, OR HYDRARGOS.

[Length, 114 feet.—Weight, 7500 pounds.]

The bones of the largest animal of which we have any knowledge, are now exhibited in this city, [in Broadway, near Canal street.] We had seen a small print of this wonderful skeleton, and read and copied into the Penny Magazine Professor Silliman's letter on it; but, on entering the hall of the exhibition, we felt overwhelmed at the sight of its enormous dimensions. Indeed, it must require an exertion of the imagination, in the absence of the object itself, to form a correct idea of its magnitude. If in a city, the reader may look at four houses of the full common size, (that is, 25 feet front,) and reflect that this serpent is 14 feet longer. In the country, seven lengths of a common post-and-rail fence will be but of little greater length.

This skeleton was found this year by Dr. Albert Kock, a German naturalist, on his second visit to this country. He had, on his first visit, spent six years in exploring the far western states, especially Missouri, and spent much time among the Indians, incurring some risks, many inconveniences, and as much expense as his personal means would allow.—All these he considered as amply rewarded, by the discovery of the skeleton of an animal larger than the mammoths and mastadons before known, which he removed and took to Europe. It was dug from the ground at the Falls of the Missouri, where many other gigantic bones are found, and named by him the *Missourium*.

In May, 1844, Dr. K. sailed a second time for America, and made a careful examination of those regions which gave any hope of more discoveries of a like kind, beginning at Gay Head, on Martha's Vineyard, (Mass.) and proceeding to the Falls of the Ohio, and the country between New Albany and Jeffersonville in Illinois. There he had "great success," finding many new Coral species. At Bloomington, Iowa, he "made a magnificent collection of fossil plants," in the red sand-stone; found leaves and branches of "extinct tropical plants," with "whole trunks of palm-trees;" and at the Lower Rapids of the Missouri, a new animal of a gigantic frog species. He examined the remarkable foot-prints in the rocks, and brought away a stone containing some of them, from near Herculaneum, which is in his collection in New York. Two of

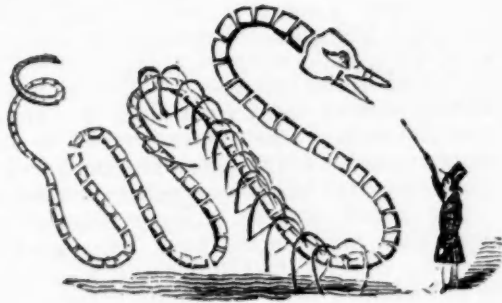
the prints are like those of the human foot, with five toes, only shorter, which he assigns to an unknown reptile.

But the most wonderful remains are those which are represented on the title-place of this magazine: the great fossil sea serpent, found near the surface, in a singular region in Alabama, near the Sintabogue, on Snake River. He had previously examined numbers of large vertebræ in the neighboring country, the remains of multitudes formerly found there, and remarkable for their hardness and durability. He found one built into a chimney, another used as a step-stone, a third as the supporter of a gate-post, and a fourth as a negro's pillow to sleep on. Hearing of the recent exposure of some new specimens near the Sintabogue, in cultivating a new field, he there disinterred the monster now exhibited to us, consisting of a backbone of above 100 joints, lying in a semi-circular position, and generally undisturbed, with numerous short ribs more displaced, and the skeleton of the head, about 6 feet long, turned over, but near its position. The parts are now supported partly on iron bars, in the form exhibited by the print, which is a very accurately, as well as neatly executed, and will give our readers as correct an idea of the wonderful object as they could expect without paying a visit to the exhibition room.

The skeleton measures 114 feet, without any allowance for cartilage or loss by decay. The weight of the bones is 7,500 pounds. The animal must have borne a very striking likeness to the descriptions given of the sea serpent so often said to have been seen a few years since on the coast of Massachusetts. Some of the vertebræ have protuberances, and Dr. Kock informed us that they all seemed formed for vertical motion. We copy the following from his pamphlet, which is sold at the door of his exhibition room:

The *Hydargos* has nothing in common with the *Saurier*, or *Lizard*, with which a large number of monsters of old are classed, and with whose remains we have already become acquainted, through the progress of geological discoveries; as the teeth of all creatures belonging to the *Saurier*, or *Lizard* family, have only one fang, whereas the incisors, or cutting teeth of the *Hydargos* have two distinct kinds; those of the anterior ones, are closely united, but become more and more forked, as we approach the posterior teeth; these incisors have a certain analogy to those of a *Marsupial* or *Pouched* animal, still they are like those of all the serpent

tribe; formed less for the purpose of mastication, being slight, and small in size; it would seem that the animal did not masticate its food, but gorged it entire: which is more expressly proven by the fact, that this creature was provided with palate bones, which have some similarity to molar teeth, but could only be used for the purpose of crushing its food. Its greatly elongated snout was armed with forty or more spear-shaped incisors, whose fangs were deeply inserted in distinct sockets.



Skeleton of the *Hydrargos*.

All the incisors (or cutting teeth) are so set in the ramus and the maxilla, that their extremities have an inclination backwards towards the palate, like the shark, so that the victim caught, could easily enter the mouth, but could not possibly escape. The canine teeth correspond in regard to the before-mentioned position with the incisors, as they also curve backward, as well with the superior as with their inferior extremities both of which terminate in a blunt point, the inferior being the sharpest. These teeth are from six to eight inches in length, full one-sixth of their length being concealed in the ramus and maxilla; and their superior or exposed points, are covered with a thick coating of enamel, which exhibits the same marking which was observed in the incisors. The body of these teeth are compressed, and have their greatest circumference in the centre, standing from one to two inches isolated from the incisors, and from one, to one and a half inches from the palate bones.

These palate bones are contained in an alveola, of an elongated oval form, and are not unlike the posterior palate bones which we find in the drum fish, they are from two and a half, to three inches in length; and from one and three-fourth, to two inches thick; forming a compressed oval, covered with a thick covering of crusta petrosa; especially characteristic are these cone-like teeth, or a spiral shaped portion of them, which, while partly concealed and partly exposed to view, measures from one and one-fourth, to one and a half inches in length, and half an inch in diameter, at its base; the palate bones indicate some relation of the *Hydrargos Sillimanii* with the pisces or fish; whereas, some characteristics likewise indicate a relationship to the Batrachia, while others indicate a strong relationship with the Ophidia or ser-

pents. Its tendal system proves it to be carnivorous, and in fact omnivorous.

The structure of the nasal cavity, shows the animal to have been an air-breathing reptile, since the posterior outlets are at the back part of the mouth, it must therefore have respired freely, like the Saurier.

The supposition that the *Hydrargos Sillimanii* frequently skimmed the surface of the water, with its neck and head elevated, is not only taken from the fact, that it was compelled to rise for the purpose of breathing, but more so from the great strength and size of its curvical neck vertebræ, and the comparatively small size of its head, which could, with the greatest ease, be maintained in an elevated position. The ribs are of a very peculiar shape and form; so much so, that I know of no animal to which I might compare them; the greater number are small, and remarkably slender on their superior extremities, until we arrive within two thirds of the length toward the inferior extremities, where they begin to increase in thickness most rapidly, so that near the lower parts, where they are flattened, they have three or four times the circumference that they have on the superior extremities, and have very much the curve of the sickle. From the whole of their construction, we may justly form the conclusion that the animal was not only possessed of a fleshy back of great power, but also, of remarkable strength in its belly, by which means it was enabled to perform very rapid movements, notwithstanding its two fore feet or paddles being quite small in comparison with the rest of the skeleton, yet they are in proportion with the short and thick Ulva and Humerus, or fore-arm, which, together with the paddles, have been concealed under the flesh, during the life of the animal, in such a manner as to be only perceptible through muscles and cartilages, similar to the fins of the eel. The Humerus and Ulva are not unlike those of the Ichthyosaurus; and each paddle is composed of twenty-seven bones which form in union, nine forward and backward articulating joints.

NATIONAL OBSERVATORY.—The Secretary of the Navy communicates a report from Lieutenant J. M. Gillis, of the plan and construction of the depot of charts and instruments, with drawings and a description of the instruments. This "depot" is eligibly located in Washington, near the capitol, on University Square, on the north bank of the Potomac, and ninety-five feet above high water mark. The central building is fifty feet square. It is two stories and a basement high, with a parapet and balustrade of wood around the top, and is surmounted by a revolving dome twenty-three feet in diameter, resting on a circular wall, built up to a height of seven feet above the roof. In the centre of the building rises a solid pier or pedestal, placed on a firm foundation, on which rests the great telescope.

The transit instruments are placed on piers erected in the different wings of the edifice.

The following is the list prepared and approved by the Secretary of the Navy:—1. An Achromatic Refracting Telescope; 2. Meridian Transit Instrument; 3. Prime Vertical Transit; 4. Mural Circle; 5. Comet Searcher; 6. Magnetic Instruments; 7. Meteorological Instruments; 8. Books. Lieut. Gillis was despatched to Europe for the purpose of obtaining these articles. The great Telescope was manufactured in Germany. The cost was \$6000, its object glass alone being valued at \$3,600. The following is a description of a *check or watch clock*, ordered to be made by Mr. Aaron Willard, of Boston:

"An ordinary clock is to be furnished with an extra train of wheels, carrying below the dial and inside of the case a disc of metal, which shall revolve in twenty-four hours.—Upon the disc may be placed cards of paper, divided on the circumference into twenty-four parts. A lever, moving only in a direction vertical to the paper, holds a pencil on its inner extremity, which makes its mark on being touched from the outside. Marks being thus made at the record of the observations, afford evidence of the *times* when the assistants performed their duty. The case will of course be locked up and a new paper introduced each day."

Lieut. Gillis says that much interest was evinced in the success of the Naval Observatory, by the distinguished *savans* whom he had the honor to meet—and in token of their gratification at the establishment of an institution by the United States, where science will be prosecuted, they contributed to its library a large number of valuable books.

Two officers can be constantly and usefully employed at each of the larger instruments, viz:—*transit, mural circle, transit in prime vertical, and equatorial*; and the *magnetical observatory* will require at least four. They should possess a knowledge of the higher mathematics, and a taste for astronomical pursuits. To such requisites they must add patience, perseverance, and endurance; for the refinements of astronomy entail long hours of delicate adjustments and calculations, as well as continued loss of sleep, and exposure to the external temperature at all seasons.

THE ALBANY CEMETERY.—The new Cemetery is about three miles from Albany, in the township of Watervliet on the Troy road, and a little more than half way to that city. It affords a drive, inside of the fence, of five miles. The entrance and grounds are not yet completed, but they certainly bid fair to excel any similar ones in the country. Soon after entering, you pass through an oak opening filled with gradual mounds, and approach to ravines suitable for burying places. These glens are among the most picturesque that can be conceived. In crossing them, and the streams which flow through a portion of them, you traverse bridges built of the trunks and

limbs of trees, cut from the grounds. These rustic structures are strongly put together with railings formed into various shapes adapted to the place. It is intended to plant trailing vines at each end, and thus cover their upper side with foliage.

The views from these natural passage-ways are some of the most charming. The gentle sloping or steep banks—the shady coves, hidden away among the overhanging trees—the palisades of mossy rocks, wreathed with rude crowns of bending boughs—the opening river in the distance, with its dotted banks and vessels—present a scene of rural beauty rarely equalled. Intermingled among the bridges and winding paths are several of the most delightful lakes and cascades. Sufficient wood has been cleared away from their borders to admit the light of the sun and moon to the greatest possible advantage, affording the sky, clouds, trees and hill-sides a perfect reflection in the limpid waters. Here overlooking mimic seas, burial spots have been already relected. Several open knolls and eminences are to be found, from which the river, Troy, and the public road are finely commanded.—On one of these is an admirable site for an observatory to overlook the enclosure. A large lot in the rear is intended for a flower garden and shrubbery nursery.

The movement was first suggested in a sermon preached by one of the clergymen of Albany—Rev. Dr. WELCH. He is now on the Board of Managers, and is one of the most efficient members.—*Boston Traveller.*

FROM THE PACIFIC.—CALLAO, July 4th, 1845.—We have in port a formidable naval force of all nations, and our squadron will be increased in a short time, preparatory to a blockade of the Mexican ports on this side, should war be declared by Mexico, and our boys are in fine spirits.

Gen. Flores, late President of the Republic of the Equator, retires to Europe, having given way to a revolutionary movement, but retaining all his military honors and emoluments.

Gen. Castilla, President of Peru, has convened the general Congress, which is now in session, and it is understood that full satisfaction has been made to Admiral Seymour, for outrage committed upon British property by the revolutionary Peruvians lately in arms against Gen. Castilla.

A British fleet is said to be on its way to Oregon, to protect British property and settlers at Astoria, and from the language used by the officers of the British Squadron here, we are led to believe that the report is correct. Indeed, a forcible seizure of the whole of Oregon north of the Columbia seems to be the object of this movement, and instructions to that effect are said to

be in possession of the Admiral. I have letters from Oregon to the 1st of May, which report considerable political excitement among the settlers, and manifestations of hostilities from the Hudson Bay Company's people. Every obstacle is thrown in the way of American settlements north of the Columbia.

We have had intelligence from Tahiti to the 1st. ultimo. The French retain the Islands, and there is not the most remote prospect that they will ever give them up. The loss to our whaling interests is very serious, as the French authorities prohibit traffic with the natives, and there is no other port for obtaining supplies in that vicinity. An American vessel has been despatched to the Feejee Islands with arms and ammunition for the natives, to enable them to fortify themselves, and maintain their independence against an expected attack from the French or English.

The following vessels of war are now here, viz ; frigate Savannah, Com. John D. Sloat ; sloop of war Portsmouth, J. B. Montgomery, commander ; sloop of war Levant, H. N. Page, commander ; store ship Relief, Lieut. commanding R. G. Robb. The frigate Brandywine, sloop St. Louis, and brig Perry from China, have returned home.—The terms for which their crews enlisted have expired, and in their stead we expect the Brazil squadron. Our vessels of war will remain here until the U. S. schr. Shark arrives from Panama, when the Commodore expects to receive information regarding Mexico and the United States. We expect the Shark here in 15 days. It is now 12 o'clock, and the vessels of war in port have just commenced firing the national salute. It is a joyous sight to see seven vessels of war all firing at the same time. H. B. M. ship Calliingwood, 74 guns ; H. B. M. ship Modeste, sloop of war ; French sloop of war Triumphant ; H. B. M. ship Cormorant, a steamer.—Sun.

PARAGUAY.—A letter which we have received states that, on a stranger presenting himself at the frontiers, numerous interrogations are made as to his occupation, religion, and opinions. He is expressly told that he must neither speak of the forms of his own government, nor make any remarks upon that which he finds established, and that if he indulge in any conversation that can be considered political, he will be sent out of the country under an escort of Indians. One of the singular circumstances attendant upon the dictator's death, has been the marriage of a large portion of the population previously living together on very equivocal terms. Dur-

ing his life no one was permitted to marry without his special permission, which was not very easily obtained. Fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, grandsons, granddaughters, nay, even the fourth generation, as the female is marriageable at the age of twelve, have availed themselves on the same days of the benediction of the priest, and the holy bonds of wedlock have been entered into by whole villages. The society at Assumption is described as singular, in consequence of the severity in which ladies were treated who decked themselves with much finery. Their dress is formed of one single large vestment, with a belt round the waist.—*Polytechnic.*

Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb and of Idiots, in European Institutions.

The Report of the New York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, which we noticed at length on our 27th Number, (page 451st,) gives us the following list of such seminaries in Europe, with the accompanying particulars, collected by their agent, Rev. Mr. Day :

| | Schools. | Teachers. | Pupils. |
|--------------------|----------|--------------|---------|
| Great Britain, | 16 | 43 | 914 |
| France, | 44 | (imperfect) | 233 |
| Italy, | 9 | 19 | 233 |
| Switzerland, | 12 | 48 | 241 |
| Austria, | 7 | 15 | 292 |
| Prussia, | 24 | 45 | 548 |
| Bavaria, | 10 | (imperfect.) | |
| Baden & Wur- | 6 | 14 | 158 |
| temberg, | | | |
| Other States of | 15 | 303 | 54 |
| Germany, | | | |
| Holland & Belgium, | 12 | — | 672 |
| Russia, | 2 | — | 145 |
| United States, | 6 | 35 | 592 |

Mr. Day further states, that the instruction of idiots is also engaging the attention of European philanthropists. In Prussia and Saxony their efforts have been attended with considerable success. Mr. Sægert, of Berlin, in a memorial to the government for the establishment of an institution for their benefit, states that he had taught 12 who were perfectly imbecile ; 4 to speak, read and write, and 2 to speak ; the other six are learning to talk. Other German teachers are turning their attention to the same subject.

THE NEW YORK NORMAL SCHOOL AT ALBANY.

The examination or general review of the several branches of study pursued in this institution, during the past term, was brought to a close after four entire days. The principal is Mr. Page. Over the mathematical department Professor Perkins presided. The classes in Natural Philosophy and Chemistry are under the charge of Mr. Clark—those in Geography under Mr. Losee—those in Reading under the Misses Hanse and Smith—and several other classes by the more advanced pupils, and the classes in Physiology and Grammar

under the immediate supervision of the Principal. The exercises were interspersed with vocal music under Prof. Ilsley. Specimens of linear and perspective Drawing, exhibited by the Port-Folios, showed the advancement of the pupils in this important accomplishment, under Prof. Howard.

The exercises were terminated by a series of interesting addresses before the various associations by Messrs. Eaton and Moses of Chautauque, and Allen of Ontario, interspersed at intervals by singing, by the pupils of the experimental school—Valedictory, by Mr. Stetson, of Franklin, an address to the pupils of the school generally, by the Hon. N. S. Benton, Superintendent of Common Schools—and a parting Address by the Principal to the graduates—thirty-four in number—to whom full Certificates of qualifications as Teachers were granted by the Executive Committee and Board of Instructors of the Institution. Taken as a whole, the examination and review were exceedingly interesting and impressive; and were attended throughout by a large auditory as well of citizens as strangers from different sections of the State.

Prof. Silliman to the Editors of the Express :

EXTRAORDINARY FOSSIL ANIMAL.—Permit me, through the columns of your paper, of which I have been many years a reader, to invite the public attention to the wonderful skeleton that is now being exhibited by Dr. A. Koch, at the Apollo Rooms, in Broadway.

Several years ago, the late Judge Creagh, of Clarke Co., Alabama, found similar bones on his plantation, in such abundance, that they were often destroyed, as far as possible, by fire, in order to get rid of an incumbrance that interfered with agriculture: the negroes, also, were in the habit of building their fire places with them. The late Dr. Richard Harlan, of Philadelphia, and more recently of New Orleans, where he died more than a year since, first described and figured these bones, and supposing them to belong to a gigantic fossil lizard—he imposed the name of *Basilosaurus* or King of Saurians or Lizards.

He several years afterwards carried with him to London, some of the bones, and they were there reviewed by the great comparative anatomist, Professor Owen, of the Royal College of Surgeons—who was of the opinion that the animal must have had more resemblance to the whale than the lizards. This opinion Dr. Harlan had the candor to present to the Association of American Geologists, together with the bones, at their meeting in Philadelphia, in April, 1841, where I heard his statements. Not long after, Dr. Bulkley brought to this city, and eventually to Albany, an entire skeleton of the animal, which is between 70 and 80 feet long, and is now in the State Geological Collection at Albany; but I believe it has not yet been set up. This skeleton was fully described by Dr. Bulkley, in the *American Journal of Science and Art*.

Where is Bishop Reze?

In the August number of the *Washington Investigator*, conducted by J. F. Polk, Esq., we find the following paragraph:

“Can any one tell whether Bishop *Reze*, late of Detroit, has been released or not from his confinement in Rome? On going to Rome, a few years ago, he is said to have fallen under ecclesiastical censure, and to have been imprisoned. We have conversed with an American gentleman, now high in Government, who was there at the time, and conversed with the American consul on the subject of Bishop *Reze's* confinement; and the consul, it seems, refused to investigate the matter, because it was a *religious* difficulty between the bishop and the church. A shameful excuse, we must say, for an American consul to plead, when the personal liberty of an American citizen was the subject. If Bishop *Reze* chose to change some part of his religious faith at Detroit, as he had a right by law to do, what right has a *foreign prince* to call him to account and imprison him for it? And what does an American consul deserve, for unfeelingly abandoning him to his fate? Our consul at Rome should be any thing but a papist.”

The editor of the *Investigator* is referred to the 27th number of the *American Penny Magazine*, for some interesting particulars respecting the treatment and probable fate of Bishop *Rézé*; and we trust that he and our editors and fellow-citizens generally, will loudly demand of our government an investigation of the case, (if, as appears to be admitted, he is a citizen,) as well as the appointment of a new Consul at Rome, the present one having forfeited all claim to his his office.

P. S.—*Our Consul at Florence*.—Since writing the above, we learn that Mr. John Albinola, a highly respected Italian exile, well known in this city, who went to Tuscany, on commercial business, a few weeks since, with his passport as an American citizen, regularly viséed at Paris, by our minister and that of Tuscany, was forbidden to remain in the territory of the Grand Duke, after his arrival at Leghorn; and, instead of being protected and aided by our Consul at that port (Mr. Binda) was, by his misrepresentations, forced to leave the country, to the great detriment of his business. To make the case still worse, the Consul professed great friendship for Mr. A. all the while.

Americans can have but one feeling towards these two Consuls.

SHADE TREES.

In many parts of our country there is a great want of trees for shade, for timber and for fuel. It would require but little expense, time or labor, to supply this want in a few years. If every man should plant but one tree in a year, how important a change would soon appear! If a few individuals in any place should undertake to improve their neighborhoods in this manner, with public spirit enough to overlook merely selfish views, and to aim at the benefit of all, village streets and public squares, many a school house and church yard would soon show a pleasing improvement.

Shade-trees are healthful as well as ornamental, and increase the value of property in a place, by rendering it a more desirable residence. Landholders, and others interested in the increase of towns, would consult their own good by this cheap and very profitable improvement. The example, when once set, is naturally imitated; and what one begins, others will continue or complete. Shady walks and rides have thus been extended, especially in New England, from town to town, and from county to county; and, in proportion as they exist there and elsewhere, they are admired and valued. In certain foreign countries also we find attention paid to this subject. It forms part of the charming study of Ornamental Gardening, on which many pleasing volumes have been written, and in which different tastes have prevailed; but that of nature, long most popular in England, has made great advances on the continent.

In some places a tree is placed in private grounds, or in the village grove, on the birth of every child, who looks upon it through life in a sense its own. The avenues to certain towns and villages are shaded by rows of trees, as are those leading to chateaux or country seats. Hills, mountains and other uncultivated tracts in Germany are to some extent now covered with planted trees, under the care of men scientifically educated at the universities expressly for the business, who direct when to plant, thin out, trim and cut down different portions in their season, when to turn in cattle to pasture or browse, and who apply with advantage their knowledge of botany, geology and other branches of knowledge. Yet vast tracts of land in Europe, especially in Spain and Italy, are totally destitute of timber, and consequently stripped of their soil by the

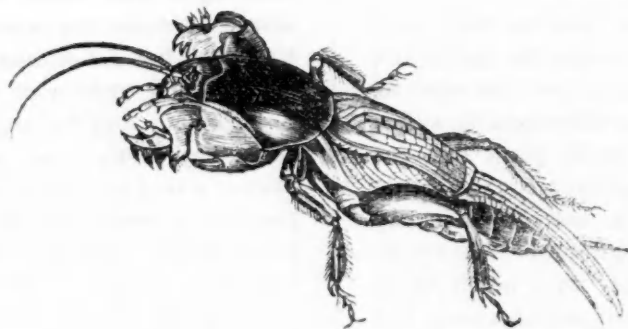
washing of rain. Such negligence is excusable in nations deprived of the means of instruction: but Americans should know better and adopt a more wise and prudent course. A beginning may be made this year as well as at any future time; and the easy act of putting a seed into the ground, or that of transplanting a young tree, or protecting valuable shoots while liable to destruction, will soon and long be repaid. We are in debt to some of our predecessors for fine trees which they have spared if not planted. Let us show our gratitude by making similar provision for the benefit of our successors.

In choosing shade-trees, we should have in view adaptation to the situation, quickness of growth, beauty of form and foliage, freedom from the attacks of insects, length of life, then value of timber, and if not in exposed situations, excellence of fruit.

SNAKES AND RABBITS.—Mr. George M. Fulme, writing from Pomona, South Carolina, to the *Columbia Carolinian*, states that on the 28th ult. he found a large black snake, about six feet long, which had a half-grown rabbit by the head in the act of swallowing it. The snake was killed, and Mr. Fulme gives this account of what followed: "As soon as I struck the snake, on looking back I found the rabbit coming up, and it stopped immediately at the dead snake's head. I moved it away four or five yards with my foot, but it instantly returned to the snake's head. I then moved the snake, and the rabbit still pursued it, and I left it. About 6, P. M., I returned to the place, together with all my pupils, and the rabbit remained in the identical position in which I had left it. My son moved it again, but it immediately returned to its post at the snake's head, and we left it a second time, still charmed by the continuing spells of the dead serpent. I returned to the spot the next morning, but could find no trace of the rabbit. Now, can any one tell what secret power lies hidden in the organization of a serpent which caused this incident?"

Texas Lands.—The superficial area of Texas, as defined by the statute of the first Texan Congress, is in round numbers, 397,000 square miles, or 254,284,166 acres. The total amount of land covered by scrip, issued by the various Land Commissioners, is stated to be 43,543,970 acres, less than half of which gives the holder a valid title to the land. The total amount of public domain still subject to location and unsurveyed, is nearly 182,000,000 of acres.

DISEASED POTATOES IN ENGLAND.—A similar disease to that so much complained of in Holland, it is stated, attacked the potato crop in various parts of England.



THE MOLE-CRICKET.

This is a singular species of the cricket, and the most destructive. Like the quadruped after which it is named, it is subterranean in its habits, and works its way through the ground by two fore legs of a peculiar construction. We copy the following description from Vol. 74, of Harper's Family Library.

It often infests gardens by the sides of canals, where it is an unwelcome guest to the gardener; so much so, that a German author of an old book of gardening was induced to exclaim, "Happy are the places where this pest is not known." These creatures also occasion great damage among the plants, &c., in kitchen gardens, by burrowing, and by devouring the roots, which causes them to wither. The peculiar shape of their fore-arms is well adapted for the purposes of burrowing, both by their great strength and breadth. They are turned outwards, like their namesake's, the mole, to whose habits they are very analogous, and enable the insects when sought for to burrow with very great rapidity, leaving a ridge in the surface as they work; but they do not form hillocks as the mole. These animals prefer for their haunts moist meadows, also the sides of quiet and running water, and swampy wet soil.

The House Cricket.

Tender insects, says White, that live abroad, either enjoy only the short period of one summer, or else doze away the cold, uncomfortable months in profound slumbers; but the house crickets, residing, as it were, in a torrid zone, are always alert and merry; a good Christmas fire is to them what the heat of the dog-days is to others.

"Around in sympathetic mirth,
Its tricks the kitten tries;
The cricket chirrups in the hearth;
The crackling fagot flies."

As one would suppose by their living near fires, they are a thirsty race, and show a great propensity for liquids, being frequently found drowned in pans of water, milk, broth or the like: whatever is moist they affect, and there-

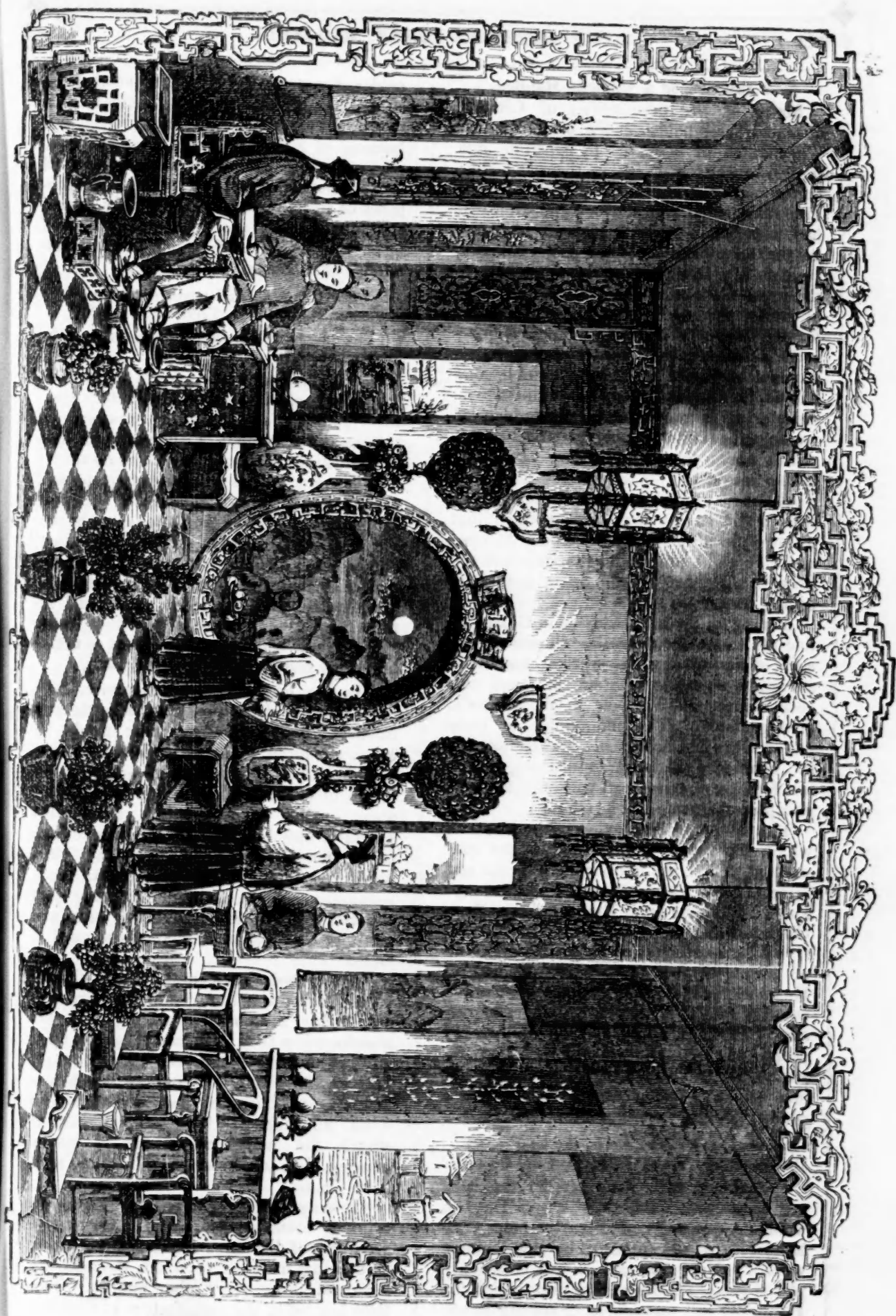
fore they often gnaw holes in wet woollen stockings and aprons that are hung to the fire. These animals are not only very thirsty, but very voracious, for they will eat the scummings of pots, yeast, and crumbs of bread, and kitchen offal or sweepings of almost every description.

In the summer they have been observed to fly, when it became dusk, out of the windows and over the neighboring roofs. This feat of activity accounts for the sudden manner in which they often leave their haunts, as it does also for the means by which they come into houses where they were not known before, especially new-built houses, being pleased with the moisture of the walls; and besides, the softness of the mortar enables them to burrow and mine between the joints of the bricks or stones and to open communications from one room to another. It is remarkable that many sorts of insects seem never to use their wings but when they wish to shift their quarters and settle new colonies. When in the air, they move in waves or curves, like woodpeckers, opening and shutting their wings at every stroke, and thus are always rising and sinking. When their numbers increase to a great degree, they become pests, flying into the candles, and dashing into people's faces. In families at such times, they are like Pharaoh's plague of frogs, in their bed-chambers, and in their beds, and in their ovens, and in their kneading troughs.—*Nat. History.*

CRYSTALS.—When bodies crystalize, they generally increase in bulk; but when they become solid without any appearance of crystalization, diminution of bulk very frequently accompanies the change.

HEAT IN PLANTS.—The temperature of the interior or the trunks of trees, is in general nearly that of the soil from which they draw their nourishment.

ETIOLATION.—When plants grow in the dark, they are said to be *etiolated*, and their color is white.—When such a plant is exposed to sunshine, it speedily begins to assume a green color.—*N. Y. Farmer and Mechanic.*



The Interior of a Chinese Mansion.

Many of the peculiarities of Chinese character and habits excite our curiosity. They seem to invite us to penetrate into their dwellings, and observe them at home: but their extreme jealousy of strangers has hitherto repelled almost every approach that has been made towards such an intimacy. As for the habitations of the poorer classes, (which is a term apparently applicable to the great mass of the people,) there is little to attract the eye of a civilized observer: for the degree of education which is generally diffused, is so limited to the mere rudiments, or rather there is so little beyond offered by Chinese books, so little inducement to apply the mind to any branch of reading, that fewer traces of civilization are visible among the people at large, than our wishes might lead us to expect. The principal cause is perhaps more distinctly to be seen in the female sex. It is to them that we owe the attractions of our own homes; and they alone can render the table and the fireside what they should be, in any clime or any nation.

Among the wealthy classes in China we find the women considerably elevated in the scale of sobriety, in some respects; and there, as might be expected, are to be found corresponding improvements in the domestic arrangements. The intercourse of trade has in some instances partly broken through the confirmed national antipathies, and a few foreigners have been permitted to catch glimpses of private life in China.

The following description of the plans on which the houses of the wealthy are constructed, and of the interior decorations and arrangements, we copy from "The Chinese," a new edition, by John Francis Davis, Esq., Governor of Hong-Kong:

"The apartments of the Chinese are by no means so full of furniture as ours in England; and in this respect they have reached a point of luxury far short of our own. Perhaps, however, they are the only people of Asia who use chairs: these resemble the solid lumbering pieces of furniture which were in fashion more than a century ago, as described by Cowper:

'But restless was the chair, the back erect
Distress'd the weary loins, that felt no ease.'

"Cushions with hangings for the back are sometimes used, of silk, or English woollens, generally of a scarlet color, embroidered in silk patterns by the Chinese women. Near the chairs are commonly placed those articles of furniture which the Portuguese call *cuspadores*, or spitting-boxes,

rendered necessary by the universal habit of smoking. Among the principal ornaments of the apartments are the variegated lanterns of silk, horn, and other materials, which are suspended from the roofs, adorned with crimson tassels, but which, for purposes of illumination, are so greatly behind our lamps, and produce more smoke than light. At a Chinese feast one is always reminded of a Roman entertainment:

*'Sordidum flammæ trepidant rotantes
Vertice fumum.'*

[The revolving flames tremble, waving the dirty smoke.]

The variety, and in the eyes of a Chinese, the beauty of the written character, occasions its being adopted as an ornament on almost all occasions. Calligraphy (or fine hand-writing) is much studied among them; and the autographs of a friend or patron, consisting of moral sentiments, poetical couplets, or quotations from the sacred books, are kept as memorials, or displayed as ornaments in their apartments. They are generally inscribed largely upon labels of white satin, or fine-colored paper, and almost always *in pairs*, constituting those parallelisms which we shall have to notice under the head of literature and poetry.

"In the forms of their furniture, they often affect a departure from straight and uniform lines, and adopt what might be called a regular confusion, as in the division and shelves of a book-case, or the compartments of a screen. Even in their doorways, instead of a regular, right-angled aperture, one often sees a complete circle, or the shape of a leaf or of a jar. This, however, is only when there are no doors required to be shut, their absence being often supplied by hanging screens of silk and cloth, or bamboo blinds, like those used in India.

"Their beds are generally very simple, with curtains of silk or cotton, in the winter, and a fine musquito-net during the hot months, when they lie on a mat, spread upon the hard bottom of the bed. Two or three boards, with a couple of narrow benches or forms on which to lay them, together with a mat and three or four bamboo sticks to stretch the musquito curtains of coarse hempen cloth, constitute the bed of an ordinary Chinese.

"It may readily be supposed that, in the original country of porcelain, a very usual ornament of dwellings consists of vases and jars of that material, of which the antiquity is valued above every other quality. This taste has led to the manufacture of factitious

antiques, not only in porcelain but in bronze and other substances, points on which strangers are very often egregiously taken in at Canton. The shapes of their tripods, and other ancient vessels, real or imitated, are often fantastical, and not unlike similar vestiges in Europe. In these they place their sticks of incense, composed principally of sandal-wood dust, which serve to perfume their chambers, as well as to regale the gods in their temples. The Chinese are great collectors of curiosities of all kinds; and the cabinets of some individuals at Canton are worth examining."

Turning to the large print on the page, we see an apartment of spacious size and length, well proportioned, well lighted by fine windows, formed and disposed nearly as in an European or an American dwelling of a superior order; decorated with large pictures, symmetrically placed, and offering a variety of tasteful scenes, with evidence that the rules of perspective are not disregarded by their respectable artists. We see fine, large specimens of their ancient porcelain manufacture, with well-proportioned chairs, tables and footstools, one of the last of which bears one of those inscriptions before referred to; while the occupations of the inmates denote that propriety of manners which belongs to their class and station in the scale of civilization. While sipping their tea, with small supplies of food before them, a servant is seen approaching with a fresh supply through one of the broad, circular doors before described, which offers a remarkable, and as has been said, a peculiar characteristic of their style of building.

We cannot but repeat, in closing these brief remarks on the subject before us, that we not only may, but ought to look upon a scene like this with a reflection, that we are bound to exert ourselves to send into thousands of such habitations the blessings of truth and knowledge.

ARCTIC EXPEDITION.—SIR JOHN FRANKLIN (the British Explorer,) and his ships had been heard from as late as July 11, near Greenland, in warm weather, surrounded by icebergs.—A correspondent says, on the 26th June, "when we entered Davis's Straits it became very fine, and we saw the stupendous mountains of West Greenland, covered with ice and snow; also, three large icebergs, which in a few days thickened upon us, but fortunately we had generally leading winds, which enabled us to thread them without danger. We left the discovery ships at Whalefish Island, Disco, on the 12th, all in good health and high spirits as to their future enterprise—full of hope as to their ultimate success. They are

famous strong ships, well-manned, and impossible to be better officered. We left them complete in full three years' provisions, stores, and fuel, besides five bullocks, which we killed there for them."

CEYLON.—Major Rogers, of the English army, residing in Ceylon, was instantly killed in June last, by a flash of lightning. He is said to have been a great elephant-hunter, having shot about twelve hundred of those animals in that island.

THE CHOLERA has prevailed in an uncommon degree on the Sutlej river, in India.

MADAGASCAR.—The Queen has ordered that all Europeans there must become naturalized, or quit the island; and two British frigates have gone thither to protect the English.

TEA.—The cultivation of tea has been commenced in Ceylon. Some persons believe that the plant loses its flavor out of China.

THE LARGEST SUSPENSION BRIDGE IN INDIA, near Calcutta, lately fell, without injuring any person.

LAST ACCOUNTS FROM CAPT. FREMONT.—A letter has been received in this city from Captain Fremont, dated from Bent's fort, on the Arkansas, *the 2d of August*. The party were all perfectly well. They expected to remain at the fort some days, from which they would, at their leisure, give a detailed account of their plans and movements.—*Wash. paper*.

WARSAW, ILLINOIS, was under martial law at last advices. A gang of counterfeiters had been discovered, four arrests made, and the parties lodged in jail, which was guarded by seventy men. After an examination, they were required to go to prison until court, or give bail in the sum of \$12,000, which was not forthcoming.

ANOMALY—There is a liquid that has the greatest density a little above thirty-nine degrees. If we heat it above that point or cool it below it, in either case it expands. This liquid is water.

HEAT.—This word is used in the English language to express two different things. It sometimes signifies a sensation excited in our organs, and sometimes a certain state of the bodies around us, in consequence of which they excite in us that sensation.

LIVING SKETCHES OF ITALY—NO. 7.

The Jesuits in Rome.

[By one of their late Pupils]

The Jesuits were designated by Pope Paul III., "*Brachium sanctæ Sedis fortissimum*," and are considered still as "the strongest arm of the holy See." The present pope is their most devoted friend, and has given them great privileges, so that loud murmurs have been raised against him. He has given them several institutions. They have now in that city the Roman College, the House of the Professed, Sant' Eusebio, the College of Propaganda, San Carlo Borromeo, La Vigna, and the institution of the ladies of the Sacred Heart, &c.

1. The Roman College. This has probably 4000 students or more. The students of divinity alone, we believe, amount to about 1200. Ciocchi mentions one of the professors, Father Pernet. Our information fully confirms what Ciocchi says in that place. He has told only the truth.

2. The House of the Professed is the head quarters of the General of the Jesuits, and also of the Gros Bonnets, as they are called in French. These are the Vicars, who represent different nations among which the Jesuits operate, in short, nearly the whole world.—There are 12 or 13 of them, who form the General's Council.

3. Sant' Eusebio is the house of spiritual exercise. It is under the charge of Father Rossini, of the house of the princes of that name, and a connection of the Governor of Rome, whose palace is the Capitol, and who on public occasions, appears on the right hand of the pope. To this house of spiritual exercises, all the young men attending the Jesuit institutions are usually sent once in three weeks to spend a number of days in reading, meditation, and reflection. I have attended more than once. They have Loyola's book placed in their hands, in which they read a passage on some subject, written for the purpose of working strongly on the imagination and the fears or hopes of the young, after which they meditate in the solitude and silence of their gloomy cells, with a human skull beside them, and then confess to, or converse with a Jesuit, who sifts them to the bottom, using all his arts to ascertain their thoughts, opinions, and inclinations, that he may decide what use to make of each. After confession they are left again alone, and usually find some gloomy or terrific picture on the table, calculated to deepen the impressions already made on their minds: as a person in hell for not following his vocation, (that is, his call to be a Jesuit,) a man eaten by worms, with an inscription: "you will soon be like me;" &c. &c. Ciocchi says that he, on opening his bed one night by moonlight to go to rest, found a skeleton in it. I never found a skeleton in my bed, but I had frightful pictures left on my table, &c., &c. At the close

of the exercises, and before returning to the College, the young men are sometimes taken to the Church to hear a sermon on death, where they find a skeleton laid out before their eyes. This I have witnessed.

There is no uniformity in the private dealings of the Jesuits with their victims. They suit their enquiries, instructions, threats, and promises to the cases before them. They use the institution for the purpose of gaining an acquaintance with the youth, and a permanent and entire control over them for life. It is the place where they try their tools, and they show great skill in their management.—Jesuits are like fish: you cannot catch them with hands.

The institution of Sant' Eusebio is only a distinct department of the Jesuit system. On account of the great number of their pupils in Rome, they find it convenient to have one large edifice, at a distance from the colleges, appropriated to the business above detailed.—In other places they generally include this department under the same roof with the others. Each pupil pays about 62 cents a day for the interesting, pleasing, and sensible spiritual exercises at Sant' Eusebio. Monks attending have their expenses paid by their convents: for the Jesuits have such extensive connections and influence with other orders, that Sant' Eusebio is the general place of delivery for all young men receiving their education in the city of Rome, who ask counsel of any priest, show any disposition to doubt the doctrines they are taught, or to exercise a spirit of independence in any other form. They are despatched at once to the house of the spiritual exercises, and rarely if ever leave it, without being brought to real or apparent submission by deceit, or terror. The experience of the monk Ciocchi, whose narrative, written since his escape to England, has produced so much excitement, corresponds so well with facts within my own knowledge, that I have the fullest confidence in its accuracy.

The four great orders of Monks and priests of the present day, are the Dominicans, the Jesuits, the Franciscans, and the Augustinians. Each of these has a general, who sits near the pope. The Jesuits are priests—the others are monks.

The Franciscan order includes the Capuchins, whose founder was John de Capistrano.

From what has already been said of the Jesuits in Rome, it may be presumed to be particularly important that we know something of their leaders. The Prefect of the Propaganda is Cardinal Prince Franzoni; and he may with propriety be denominated the Pope of all anticatholic countries. If an Englishman or a North American should go to Rome, expecting to find in the Vatican the man who directs and controls the operations of Rome in his country, he would be greatly mistaken. If he would find the head which plans, and the hand that moves the agents employed for Rome and Austria, he must go

to the Propaganda, and be introduced to Cardinal Franzoni, a Genoese prince, and brother of the Archbishop of Turin. He nominates all the bishops for the "uncatholic countries," and exercises an extensive sway over the largest part of the world. Of his disposition, some opinion may be formed from the fact, that an ecclesiastic lost his favor about the time of my residence in Rome, merely in consequence of expressing an interest in Bishop R    . His chaplain, Don Felippo, imitated the example of the Cardinal, and so did Cadolini, Archbishop of Edesse, late Archbishop of Spoleto.

The Jesuits have arisen high and rapidly to power under the reign of the present pope, Gregory XVI. He has been so friendly to them, as to grant them extraordinary privileges, one of the chief of which is the entire control of the Propaganda, heretofore a kind of Union Seminary, directed by all the orders combined. This change, which was made in 1837, has excited remonstrances. The other institutions now under the Jesuits have already been mentioned, as well as the fact that they have a control over all the institutions for education in Rome. But their power is not limited there. So far have they insinuated themselves, that now it is quite in vain for any man to pretend to any public charge, office or employment without the recommendation of the Jesuits.

How far their influence is extended by their connection with the youth it would be difficult to tell, and even to imagine. They resort to every mode to become thoroughly acquainted with the children, and through them with their families. They will play childish games, even marbles, with them, and having gained the confidence and affection of their ingenuous hearts, with the art and duplicity of the old Serpent, they will draw facts from their unsuspecting lips, which often criminate their parents, and involve their families and themselves in misery or ruin. "My little boy," says the subtle, smiling disciple of Loyola, while he stoops to mingle in some juvenile game, "do you say your prayers?" "No sir, not very often." "Oh, you ought to pray to the Virgin Mary, she is so amiable, such a friend of children. Begin to-night." Thus he begins to make a young idolater, as the first step towards making him a dupe and a tool. "My dear little boy, do you read any pretty books at home?" "Oh no sir; but my father has some large ones he lets me look at. They are French books, and I can't read French." "Ah," says the Jesuit to himself—"A—h! There is something to be enquired into—write me down sometime the titles of those books." "My dear little boy, do you like to be in company? Do you love to have strangers come to your house?" "Sometimes—we often have visitors." "Do you? Italians I suppose." "Yes sir, and sometimes foreigners too." "What people are they?" "Frenchman." From that moment the family is watched by spies; for of all men in the world Rome is most apprehensive of French-

men, whose liveliness, affability and independence of opinion are perhaps overrated, and certainly held in great dread by her agents.

An American gentleman once said to me: "I had prejudices against the Jesuits; but I have lately seen some, and they are very mild, modest, courteous men, particularly fond of children. Why sir, they actually played marbles with the boys." "Ah, sir," replied I, "I have had too much opportunity to know them, and I have abundant reason for saying what I now tell you. Their fingers play; but their heads and their hearts, you may rely upon it, are not playing. They are hard at work."

The Jesuits in their schools and colleges, make their pupils spies upon each other.—While I was under their care they endeavored to make me a spy, and I soon found that another boy was a spy over me. When I became a student of divinity, I was morally forced to become a spy, as they taught me it was a Christian duty to be one.

One of their greatest triumphs in Rome was gained by the Jesuits when they got possession of the Roman College of Santo Appollinari, from Cardinal Prince Odescalchi. He was then Vicar of Rome; when, by their machinations, they induced him to give up to them all his property, abandon his Cardinal's hat, and join their society, under the simple title of Father Charles. He left Rome, spent a year as novitiate in Ravenna, where is one of their two Italian novitiate institutions, (the other being in Rome,) and then went to Asia. I think he may be now in Armenia.

Characteristics of New-England.

I never visit New-England without meeting with confirmatory evidence of the practical good sense of her people. This evidence exists in their industry, their frugality and their common sense virtues. It is evinced in their adherence, in a great degree, to their primitive habits and even their puritan principles.

In riding yesterday sixty miles through the Valley of the Connecticut River, I had an opportunity of seeing nature in all its loveliness. This Valley, eminently attractive in itself, has been greatly adorned by art. Not as the nobleman adorns his domain or as the nabob embellishes his grounds, by splendid castles or towering mansions; but with richly cultivated fields, and neat, tasteful, comfort-imparting cottages, painted snow-white with green venetian blinds, shaded by honey-suckle or woodbine.

A New-England farmer brings up a family reputably, giving his children a good common school education, from land upon which a Western New-Yorker would starve. This is the result of the primitive habits and puritan principles to which I have referred. But New-England is not content with a mere competency. She is rapidly accumulating wealth. The tariff of 1842 is showering gold into the lap of New-England. Every where, and in all aspects, their prosperity is apparent. Ten years of such enormous gains—

the legitimate gains of capital, enterprise and industry, with government protection—would enable our East to vie in riches with that ancient East of whose splendor we read. These "large profits," these "enormous dividends," which were shared, heretofore, in Sheffield, Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, &c., are now divided in Lowell, Waltham and a thousand other American towns. The millions that went to England to make the rich of that country richer, and its poor poorer, now remain here to construct railroads, endow colleges, support asylums, build up cities and villages, furnish employment and confer blessings and scatter bounties throughout our land. Is this wrong? Can such a policy be bad?

The village of Cabotville, four miles from Springfield, was a farm in 1832. It is now a large, well built, thriving village, with between two and three hundred brick factories, stores and mansions, and a population of 3,000. And all this is the result of regular business. Nothing has been forced. There are no speculative fancy men there.

Mount Holyoke Female Academy, of which we have heard so much, is very charmingly situated in the town of South Hadley. The academy is an immense building, in which the pupils all reside. There were 280 young ladies at this academy during the last term.

Amherst college is also very pleasantly situated just where one might look for a seat of learning. But the towns which I admired most, in this day's ride, were Northampton on the west, and Northfield on the east side of the Connecticut. Each is beautiful in its way. The former is gently elevated—the latter upon a plain at the foot of a mountain, of unbroken surface, reaching for more than a mile through the broadest Avenue I ever saw, over which nature has spread a carpet of deep and most invitingly luxuriant green. The whole Avenue is shaded by noble elms. The foliage of both villages is rich and abundant.

Brattleborough is the southeasternmost town in Vermont. It is compactly built and surrounded by bold scenery. It is a place of considerable manufacturing, and does a fair business in merchandise. Just now it is attracting visitors and patients to the "Water-Cure" Establishment. This place was selected on account of the pure and wholesome quality of its spring water. From our friend G. F. L., who is trying this remedy, I learned something of the treatment. The establishment is conducted upon the Grafenberg plan. It is under the direction of Professor Wesselhœft, a German, who is a highly educated man. There are about fifty patients here. They occupy two houses which join, the females being in one and the males in the other.

HEMP.—This article deserves, and is receiving a considerable share of the attention of eastern and western merchants. It must be regarded as one of the principal staples of the west—and which will engage the atten-

tion of many farmers, and must form a very considerable item in our list of exports. The eastern merchants, who have turned their attention to the development of the resources of this great valley, have seen that the time is at hand when the chief supply of this article must come from the west. The west must and will, at no distant day, supply all that is needed, either for the United States Navy or for American shipping. We have the soil, climate, labor, and every thing requisite to its production; the only thing in which we are deficient is the manner of handling and preparing it for market, and the condition in which it is sent to market. In this particular there is much to be learned, and until those who have the preparation of it learn this, the hemp of the west will not occupy that position in the market, or bring the price which it should.

Below we give a circular from a large mercantile house in New York to their correspondent in this city, which embodies many suggestions which are worthy the attention of our farmers.—*Mo. Repub.*

The most successful mode of preparing dew rotted hemp, would prove to be by "*thoroughly clearing it from tow and shives,*" by hackling, and, for the past two years, his mode of preparation has been adopted to some extent in Kentucky and Missouri, and with success.

In the selection of hemp for hackling, we would advise taking good quality only; the first requisite being a fine clean staple, which is much more valuable for this purpose than coarse rough hemp; a bright fair color is also preferable when equal in other respects.

The result of hackling depends very much upon the selection of hemp, as, if the staple is coarse, or inferior, imperfectly rotted and cleaned, it will require a greater amount of labor, will suffer more loss in tow and shives, and when ready for market, will also be inferior in value. A good quality of hemp may be reduced in the process of hackling, *advantageously*, say 25 to 35 per cent., depending, however, entirely upon the order and condition of the hemp.

When hackled, it should be put up in hands, say of 8 to 12 lbs., tied firmly, at or near the root end, at full length, and in that order baled.

It is not so liable to damage in transportation, is exhibited to much better advantage when opened for sale, and it is the order in which Russia hemp is packed, which in all respects is taken as the standard. When hackled, or water rotted, the expense will be well repaid by covering the sides with wrappers, and allowing the ends to remain open.

During the past two years we have very regularly obtained for dew rotted hemp 6c. a 6½c. per lb.; say \$134 48 a \$145 60 per ton.—That these, or very nearly these rates may be obtained hereafter, we have much confidence, and unless a more generally successful method should in future be adopted, in water rotting,

we believe our western dew rotted by hackling, allowing the tow and inferior hemp to find a market at home, for the manufacture of bale rope and bagging.—*Visiter.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

EXTENT OF THE OREGON TERRITORY.—On the east it skirts 800 miles along the Rocky Mountains, on the south 300 miles along the Snowy Mountains, on the west 700 miles along the Pacific Ocean, on the north 250 miles along the North American possessions of Russia and England. This area or immense valley contains 360,000 square miles—capable undoubtedly of forming seven states as large as New York, or forty states of the dimensions of Massachusetts. Some of the islands on the coast are very large—sufficient to form a state by themselves. These are situate north of the parallel of 48. Vancouver's Island, 260 miles in length and 50 in breadth, contains 12,000 square miles—an area larger than Massachusetts and Connecticut. Queen Charlotte's or rather Washington Island, too, 150 miles in length and 30 in breadth, contains 4,000 square miles. On both of these immense islands, though they lie between the high parallels of 48 and 54 degrees, the soil is said to be well adapted to agriculture. The straits and circumjacent waters abound in fish of the finest quality. Coal of good quality, and other veins of minerals, have been found.—*Globe.*

FROM EUROPE.—By the steamer *Caledonia*, which arrived at Boston, we have advices from Liverpool to the 19th of August, and later advices from all parts of the world.

The prospect of a good harvest had improved.

The amount of specie in the Bank of England is no less than £16,000,000, an unusually large quantity.

Mr. McLane has delivered his credentials to the Queen, and Mr. Everett his letters of recall.

Parliament was prorogued on the 9th of August by the Queen in person.

The London Gazette of the 12th inst., contains an order of council—agreeably to the act of 1844, for admitting sugar the growth of free labor at a reduced rate of duty.

SYRIA.—A letter from Beyrout of July 12 says:—"Although an armistice has been concluded, the Druses and the Christians still remain with arms in their hands, and occupy all the fortified points."

THE PILGRIMAGE AT MECCA.—From Africa the news is of the usual character—crops have been destroyed, flocks seized, tribes put to flight; but Abd-el Kader is as far from being taken, and Algiers as far from being tranquillised, as they were fifteen years ago. A recent letter describes the return of a troop of pilgrims from Mecca. All the people of

the district turned out to meet them in procession, with banners, presents, &c.

As they approached the pilgrims, they all chaunted, "O pilgrims to the chamber of God! Have you seen the prophet of God?" To which the pilgrims chaunted, in reply, "We have seen him, and we have left him at Mecca. He prays, fasts, makes his ablutions, and reads the holy book of God!" The pilgrims were then embraced by their countrymen, and presents and hospitality were pressed upon them. The pilgrimage to Mecca occupies fifteen months, and is peculiarly dangerous from the great number of robbers on the route.

CHINESE RANSOM MONEY.—A fresh instalment of the Chinese Ransom money, which was brought to England by the *Cambrian*, arrived in London on the 4th of August.

The Emperor of Russia has given permission for the importation of corn, free of duty, during the whole of this year, in the ports of Riga, Pernau and Revel, in the Baltic.

RATHER LENGTHY.—It has been estimated that a quantity of spider's web, weighing a quarter of an ounce, would reach from London to Edinburgh, a distance of four hundred miles.

Attraction.—If a dozen small pieces of cork be placed in a vessel of water, near the centre but a little distance apart, they will be seen to approach each other with constantly increased motion, until they meet, after which the whole will move towards the nearest side of the vessel.

IMMENSE LOCOMOTIVE ESTABLISHMENT.—The London Mining Journal gives a brief description of the gigantic locomotive establishment at St. Petersburg, Russia, organized and directed by Messrs. Harrison & Eastwick, formerly of Philadelphia, in conjunction, we believe, with Mr. Winans of Baltimore. It characterizes it as "the most extraordinary, as well as gigantic establishment." It was called into operation to supply the large number of locomotives required for the great chain of railroads which the Emperor of Russia has directed to be constructed, (Major Whistler, a Bostonian, being chief engineer,) and it is so huge in dimensions that 3,500 operatives are employed in it. To keep order in this mixed mass of Americans, English, Scotch, Irish, Germans, and Russians, a company of soldiers is kept on duty in conjunction with a police force, whose duties are confined to the works. If the operatives are refractory they are discharged, unless there happen to be Russians among them, and when any of these offend against the discipline of the place they are immediately tied up to the triangles, soundly flogged, and sent to work again.—*Philadelphia paper*

POETRY.

THE HAPPY FARMER.

BY MRS. L. H. SIGOURNEY.

Saw ye the farmer at his plough
As you were riding by?
Or wearied 'neath his noon-day toil,
When summer suns were high?
And thought you that his lot was hard?
And did you thank your God,
That you, and yours, were not condemned
Thus like a slave to plod?

Come see him at his harvest home,
When garden, field, and tree
Conspire, with flowing stores to fill
His barn, and granary.
His healthful children gaily sport,
Amid the new-mown hay,
Or proudly aid, with vigorous arm,
His task as best they may.

The dog partakes his master's joy,
And guards the loaded wain;
The feathery people clap their wings,
And lead their youngling train.
Perchance, the hoary grandsire's eye
The glowing scene surveys,
And breathes a blessing on his race,
Or guides their evening praise.

The Harvest-Giver is their friend,
The Maker of the soil,
And earth, the mother, gives them bread,
And cheers their patient toil.
Come, join them round their wintry hearth,
Their heartfelt pleasures see,
And you can better judge how blest
The farmer's life may be.

RELIGIOUS DISTURBANCES IN GERMANY.

At Posen, one of the leaders of the new Anti-Romish party, was to preach, and the Romanists held a grand procession. Serious disturbances occurred, and the military were called out. At Magdeburg, a church has been consecrated for the Reformers; and at Leipsic, they are so numerous, that they are obliged to meet in the open air.

At Halberstadt, on the 9th of August, a riot occurred after public service, and John Ronge, the leader of the new Reformation, addressed the populace from a balcony, concluding with these words: "Rome and her supremacy must fall—Amen." A man replied: "Not so soon as you," when he was assaulted, as well as his house. A band of cuirassiers cut down the populace, but some of them were dragged from their horses and wounded.

At Leipsic, on the 15th, Prince John of

Saxony, having rendered himself odious by his proceedings against certain Reformed villages, the people having assembled at his palace, and sung Luther's favorite Psalm.

"Ein fester burg ist unser Gott," to the old Reformer's air, they were fired upon by the soldiers, and nine persons were killed, including two students of the University. The students took arms, and the Duke fled.

In Prussia, the government have forbidden the publication of anything relating to this whole subject.

A SNAKE STORY.—The Clermont (Ohio) Courier gives an account of a very large snake in Hartman's mill-pond, on the east fork of the Little Miami, a short distance above Williamsburg. It has been frequently seen on rocks and in the water, and is 15 or 20 feet long, and as large round as a common sized man. Jacob Sarber makes affidavit that he was fishing in the pond and heard dogs bark on the opposite side, and immediately after saw something swimming towards him, and when within twenty-five feet of him, it stopped and raised up two and a half feet out of water, the belly towards him. He then saw it was a snake, of gray appearance, ten or twelve inches through. It soon drew down its head, and in its motions exhibited about sixteen feet of its body from the head back! The Courier says that, with the evidence before it, it does not feel at liberty to regard this as any other than a well-established fact.

THE AMERICAN PENNY MAGAZINE

AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER,

Edited by Theodore Dwight, Jr.

Is published weekly, at the office of the New York Express, No. 112 Broadway, at 3 cents a number, (16 pages large octavo,) or, to subscribers receiving it by mail, and paying in advance, \$1 a year. The postage is now *Free* for this city, Brooklyn, Harlem, Newark, and all other places within 30 miles; only *one cent* a copy for other parts of the State, and other places within 100 miles; and 1 1-2 cents for other parts of the Union. Persons forwarding the money for five copies, will receive a sixth gratis. The first half-yearly volume, of 416 pages, will soon be ready, bound in muslin price \$1—to regular subscribers, 75 cents.

The work will form a volume of 832 pages annually.

Postmasters are authorized to remit money.

Enclose a One Dollar Bill, without payment of postage, and the work will be sent for the year.

⚠ We particularly request the public to remember that *no person* is authorized to receive money in advance for this paper, except those who show a certificate, signed by the Editor.